



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2003

Contact: Deborah Steffen (858) 565-3490

PREPAREDNESS PROVIDES PEACE OF MIND

Slide Show on County Web Site Instructs How to Prepare Your Family for a Disaster

Do you keep a list of emergency numbers handy at home? Is your emergency supply kit up to date? Have you decided on a meeting place for your family in case of a natural disaster or a terrorist attack?

These are some of the questions you would ask if you were creating a family preparedness plan, one of the best ways to safeguard your family in an emergency. If you want to know more, click on the Office of Emergency Services Web site, www.sdcounty.ca.gov/odp, and find the button labeled "Terrorism Awareness."

There, you'll find a new slide show called "What Can Citizens Do?" The presentation goes over the key points for keeping your family prepared, and as safe as possible, in the event of a terrorist attack or other disaster. Another slide show, called "Terrorism," gives an overview of who, what and why of terrorist attacks. More slide shows will be added in the coming months.

The preparedness section focuses on five key points: Have a family preparedness plan; be aware of surroundings; stay informed; volunteer; and stay calm. The information gives a solid foundation for preparing your family for the unthinkable, a terrorist attack in your community.

Among the tips: Create a communication checklist for contacting your family, such as the number of an out-of-state friend or relative who could help your family find each other. Also: How your child can carry a few small items in his or her school backpack that would come in handy in an emergency.

The slide shows were created by the County Office of Emergency Services, working with San Diego State University.

###